



High Bridge Trail State Park Progress

New Park Manager on site

J. Eric Hougland has been named the first manager of High Bridge Trail State Park. Eric has worked with DCR for 13 years and has experience with rail-to-trail parks and has worked locally for three years. "Eric was the ideal choice for High Bridge Trail State Park," said DCR state parks director Joe Elton. "He spent a decade involved in the day-to-day operations of a rail-to-trail park and also has experience working in this community."

Hougland started his state parks career at New River Trail State Park. He worked at this linear park in Southwest Virginia for 10 years. Most recently he served as manager at nearby Holliday Lake State Park in Appomattox County. Eric is currently working out of the Virginia Heartland Regional Visitor Center in Farmville but will soon be establishing offices at the former VDOT shop in Green Bay.

You can contact Eric at High Bridge Trail State Park, 118 S. South Street #508, Farmville, VA 23901; (434) 315-1627; eric.hougland@dcr.virginia.gov

Construction to Begin Soon

High Bridge Trail State Park is moving forward. Trail surface construction plans have been finalized and bridge decking and handrail designs have been submitted for review. DCR

has also entered into an agreement with VDOT for trail surface construction. Plans call for VDOT to begin grading work in the next few weeks. Stone hauling and placement will follow.

Work to begin between High Bridge and Farmville

Initial plans called for the Aspen Hill Road to High Bridge section to open first. This was to include opening the bridge. Because of the cost involved to inspect, design and construct High Bridge for safe and suitable use, a decision was made to put the available resources towards trail surface work and connect High Bridge with Farmville.

The first section of trail to be surfaced runs 6.5 miles from High Bridge through the Town of Farmville, excluding bridge work. As more funding becomes available the bridges will be decked and trail work will continue toward Prospect, then to Pamplin, next High Bridge to Rice with completion of High Bridge itself, and finally Rice to Burkeville.

Community support for the park remains strong. The Commonwealth Regional Council and Cumberland County have both made funding for development of High Bridge Trail their number one legislative priority. Other local governments also continue to support the park effort through agreements and efforts with the new state park.

Become a friend of the park

As the park continues to be developed new opportunities will continue to arise to support the park in a variety of ways. One of those ways is through the formation of a Friends group. Friends groups are non-profit organizations that are formed to support a local park through volunteerism, advocacy and fundraising efforts. Anyone interested in forming, or becoming involved with, a Friends of High Bridge Trail State Park can contact Park Manager Eric Hougland.

Who to Contact at DCR

If you have questions about the park or a park related law enforcement concern, please contact park manager Eric Hougland at (434) 315-1627. If you have general questions about Virginia State Parks please call DCR's state parks office in Richmond at (804) 692-0403 or call the reservation center toll-free at 800-933-PARK.

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